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Approved For Release 2005/08/17 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000500800139-7

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Leuna Chemical Works Nitrogen Production

25X1

DATE DISTR. 24 Feb 54

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Leuna-Werk at Merseburg obtained catalyzing material from the Soviet Union which was delivered to the Soviet Union from the UK; also vitreous material from China. Catalyzers were also bought in England. On account of failure of these deliveries, production has fallen off considerably. The Leuna-Werk is the chief supplier of the perlon base, ketoxime, to the Soviet Union and the Soviet Zone. Leuna supplies the Buna works at Schkopau with catalyzers obtained from the Soviet Union, and the Buna works supply phosphorus material to Leuna.
2. Leuna's production of nitrogen materials in 1953 has reached 420,000 tons. Deliveries to the Soviet Union amount to 262,360 tons. In 1954 production is to be raised by 136,000 tons of pure nitrogen. Exports to the Soviet Union will remain at the same level, but deliveries to Sweden are planned, and deliveries to China are to be increased. To what extent a production increase will be possible depends upon the coal supply. The mines in the Geiselthal and vicinity are no longer able to keep up with demands. There is a lack of material-moving equipment, and that in use is overloaded. It has already been necessary this year to obtain raw brown coal from the Bitterfeld field.
3. The mechanical equipment of the Leuna works, especially the contact towers (Kontakttürme) by reason of long service is also no longer equal to the demands upon it.
4. It is reported that the production of synthetic gasoline is to be increased. But unless the coal supply functions smoothly, greater production interruptions than during the present year will have to be reckoned with.

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